(c) All operational and important telephones at civil airports have been provided with the Caller Line Identification Procedure Facility. There are instructions to impart suitable training to the staff for handling such calls and ensuring a mechanism for regular checking of the functionality of the facility.

LPG as auto fuel

†*215. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) is an eco-friendly fuel for auto vehicles;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to encourage the use of LPG as a fuel for auto vehicles;

(c) whether Government propose to maintain a suitable difference between the price of petrol and LPG so that people are encouraged to use LPG instead of petrol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At present, the country is deficit in Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and the gap between demand and indigenous production is being met through imports. Keeping this in view, Government have allowed the use the LPG as auto fuel through imports only. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are planning to make available LPG as auto fuel in selected cities in the country, in the first phase. Pricing of auto LPG and petrol is being done by OMCs on commercial considerations.

Waiver of loans of small farmers

†*216. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA :

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to waive loans of small

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

farmers in different States confronted with natural calamities regularly; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the loan waiver ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister on 14th November, 2002 announced a comprehensive relief package. In accordance with which the Reserve Bank of India while reiterating its extant guidelines, has in addition, advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks to extend the following additional relief to the farmers affected by drought, in the districts notified by the State Governments of the drought affected States :

(i) There will be no recovery of any amount either by way of principal or interest during the current financial year in respect of Kharif crop loan.

(ii) The principal amount of crop loan will be converted into term loan and will be recovered over a period of minimum five years in the case of small and marginal farmers and four years in the case of other farmers.

(iii) Interest due in the current financial year on crop loan will not be recovered. No interest will be charged on this.

Linking of Mahanadi with southern rivers

*217. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Peninsular Grid linking Orissa's Mahanadi with major southern rivers was found technically feasible in a study by National Water Development Agency;

(b) whether this project if implemented, could go a long way in solving water scarcity problems of States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether this would save water of Mahanadi going waste and flowing into the sea; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up this project, if so, by when?